cal Nitrogen Fixation through its 13 centres located at ICAR Institutes and the State Agricultural Universities have evaluated and identified efficient strains of Rhizobia for inoculation of seeds of legumes. Efficient strains of Azotobactor and Azospirillum have also been identified for inoculating crops such as sugarcane, cotton and rice. The National facility on Blue Green Algae at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi supplies mother cultures for multiplication and use in rice fields for nitrogen fixation. VAM-Mycorrhizal inoculants are also being made available for solubilising the insoluble phosphates in the soils.

(d) Effective strains of microbial inoculants are now available with the bio-fertilizer manufacturers.

Assistance to Gujarat for relief from natural calamities

8311. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the criteria and procedure followed for allocation of Central assistance to the State of Gujarat under the head relief from natural calamities during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have proposed to make radical and practical changes in this procedure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) During the period from 1st April, 1990 to 31st March, 1995 Central assistance to deffe-rent States including Gujarat was given as per the recommendations made by the IXth Finance Commission. The Commission had determined the quantum of annual allocation to the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) on the basis of average ceilings of expenditure approved during the 10 years ending 1988-89. During each of the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 Gujarat had an annual allcation of Rs. 85.00 crores with Central and States Government's contribution in the ratio of 3:1.

(c) and (d) The Xth Finance Commission after reviewing the schemes recommended by the IXth Finance Commission has recommended the continuation of the same but with enhanced allocation under the CRF. As per the recomendation of the Xth Finance Commission the State of Gujarat has a total allcation of Rs. 734.90 crores for 1995-2000.

Podu cultivation in Orissa

8312. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a novel scheme to prevent age-old Podu cultivation by tribals in Orissa;

(b) if so, the fund earmarked under the scheme;

(c) the number of tribal families involved in that scheme;

(d) whether they belong to a particular region or are from different tribal belt of the States; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Centrally assisted Scheme of Control of Podu Cultivation of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation was implemented in the State of Orissa during 1987-88 to 1990-91. During 1991-92 completion of incomplete work was allowed. The scheme has since been dis-continued from 1992-93 onwards in the State of Orissa, as per the decision of National Development Council in October, 91 to transfer the Central Sector Scheme to States.

(b) to (e) In view of dis-continuation of the scheme the question does not arise.

Recommendation of Standing Committee on NPK Ratio

8313. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring the consumption pattern of NKP fertilizers to the ideal ratio of 4:2:1;

(b) if so, the reasons for deterioration in the ratio since the decontrol of P&K in 1992; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this Kharif season to support P&K consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has been making continous efforts to achieve the ideal 4:2:1 NPK ratio.

(b) NPK ratio widened after decontrol of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers in 1992, as their consumption declined due to increase in their prices.

(c) In order to support P & K consumption in Kharif season also, Government have taken following measures to narrow down the NPK ratio:—

(i) The scheme for Concessions on the sale of Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers initiated after decontrol of these fertilisers during 1992-93 is continued since then.

(ii) A scheme on Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers has been taken up during the 8th Plan under which integrated use of nutrients through the use of organic manure, bio-fertilisers and micro-nutrients is promoted alongwith the use of chemical nutrients.

(iii) National Project on Development of Fertiliser Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas has been taken up during 1994-95, under which green manure as well as integrated nutrient system is promoted.

(iv) Under the National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilisers, the production, distribution and use of bio-fertilisers is promoted.

(v) States are advised to organise training programme for education of farmers about balanced fertiliser use.

Schemes to gve Incentives flod Cash Crop

8314. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch any schme in the State of Punjab to give more incentives and assistance for cash crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to give benefits to the farmers of the Punjab State during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Intensive Cotton Development Programme and Oilseed Production Programme are implemented to benefit the farmers of Punjab during VIIIth Five Year Plan. In addition, it has also been proposed to